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BATTLE ROYALE
KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster
Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa

8: Kayoko Kotohiki

1: Mizuho Inada

15: Shuuya Nanahara

8: Yoji Kuramoto

1: Yoshio Akamatsu

16: Yuka Nakagawa

9: Yuko Sakaki

2: Yukio Utsumi

16: Kazushi Niida

9: Hiroshi Kuronaga

2: Keita Iijima

17: Satomi Noda

10: Hirono Shimizu

3: Megumi Etou

17: Mitsuru Numai

10: Ryuhei Sasagawa

3: Tatsumichi Ooki

18: Fumiyo Fujiyoshi

11: Mitsuko Souma

4: Sakura Ogawai

18: Tadakatsu Hatagami

11; Hiroki Sugimura

4: Toshinori Oda

19: Chisato Matsui

12: Haruka Tanizawa

5: Izumi Kanai

19: Shinji Mimura

12: Yutaka Sato

5: Shogo Kawada

20: Kaori Minami

13: Takako Chigusa

6: Yukiko Kitano

20: Kyoichi Motobuchi

13: Yuichiro Takiguchi

6: Kazuo Kiriyama

21: Yoshimi Yahagi

14: Mayumi Tendo

7: Yumiko Kusaka

21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto

14: Sho Tsukioka

7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu

BATTLE ROYALE

BY

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

VOL. II

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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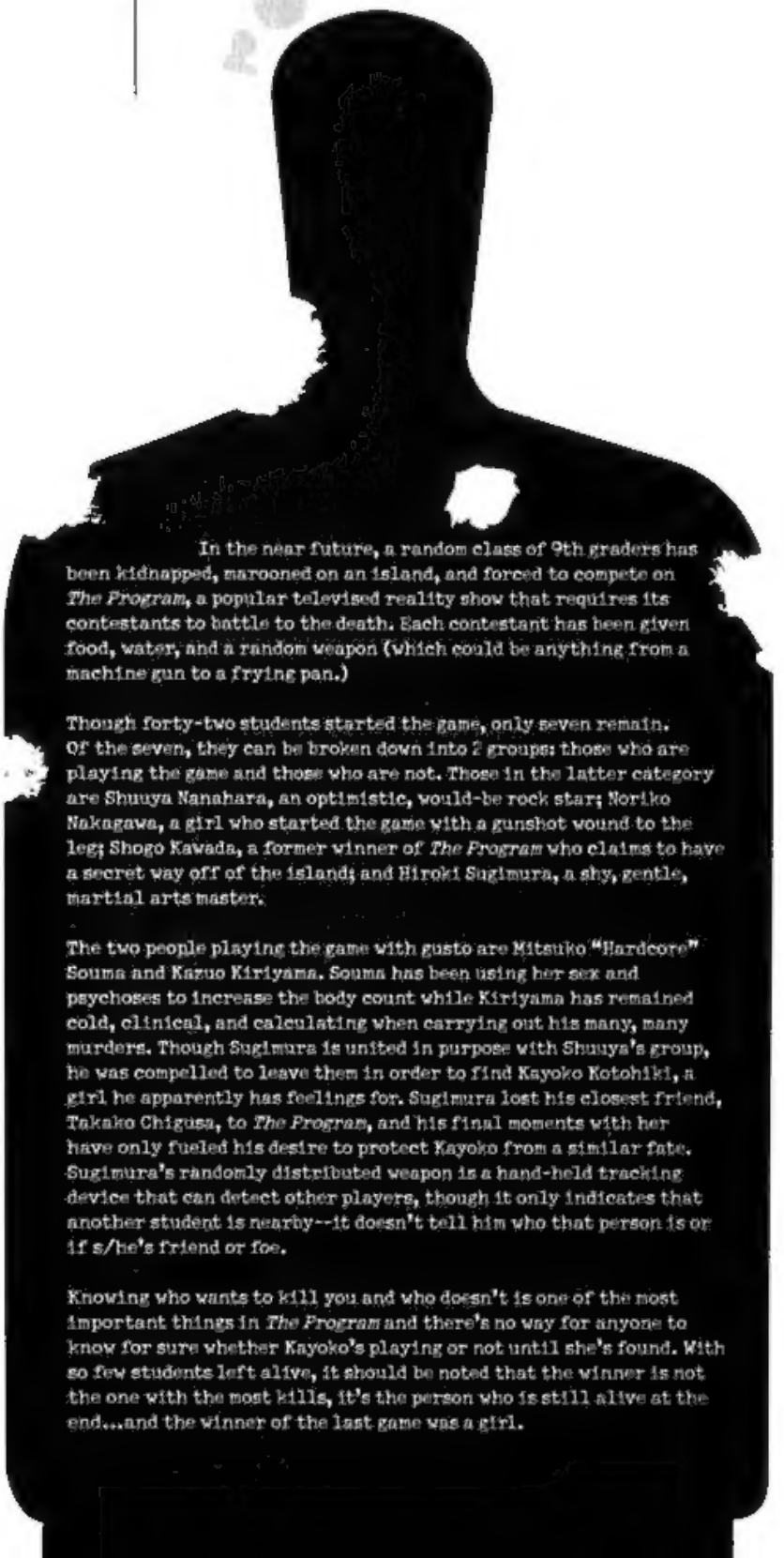
BATTLE ROYALE

STORY THUS FAR



In the near future, a random class of 9th graders has been kidnapped, marooned on an island, and forced to compete on *The Program*, a popular televised reality show that requires its contestants to battle to the death. Each contestant has been given food, water, and a random weapon (which could be anything from a machine gun to a frying pan.)

Though forty-two students started the game, only seven remain. Of the seven, they can be broken down into 2 groups: those who are playing the game and those who are not. Those in the latter category are Shuuya Nanahara, an optimistic, would-be rock star; Noriko Nakagawa, a girl who started the game with a gunshot wound to the leg; Shogo Kawada, a former winner of *The Program* who claims to have a secret way off of the island; and Hiroki Sugimura, a shy, gentle, martial arts master.

The two people playing the game with gusto are Mitsuko "Hardcore" Souma and Kazuo Kiriyama. Souma has been using her sex and psychoses to increase the body count while Kiriyama has remained cold, clinical, and calculating when carrying out his many, many murders. Though Sugimura is united in purpose with Shuuya's group, he was compelled to leave them in order to find Kayoko Kotohiki, a girl he apparently has feelings for. Sugimura lost his closest friend, Takako Chigusa, to *The Program*, and his final moments with her have only fueled his desire to protect Kayoko from a similar fate. Sugimura's randomly distributed weapon is a hand-held tracking device that can detect other players, though it only indicates that another student is nearby--it doesn't tell him who that person is or if s/he's friend or foe.

Knowing who wants to kill you and who doesn't is one of the most important things in *The Program* and there's no way for anyone to know for sure whether Kayoko's playing or not until she's found. With so few students left alive, it should be noted that the winner is not the one with the most kills, it's the person who is still alive at the end...and the winner of the last game was a girl.

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CHAPTER 80: Encounter

SUCH UNBRIDLED ENTHUSIASM. SO *MANY* ELIMINATED.

GIRL NUMBER ONE, MIZUHO INADA...
...GIRL NUMBER TWO, YUKIO UTSUMI...
...GIRL NINE, YUKO SAKAKI...
...TWELVE, HARUKA TANI-ZAWA...
...GIRL SIXTEEN, YUKA NAKA-GAWA...
...SEVEN-TEEN, SATOMI NODA...
...AND GIRL NINETEEN, CHISATO MATSUI.

SEE WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF IF YOU JUST APPLY YOURSELVES?

MY, MY, MY...
...ALL YOUNG LADIES. HOW DELIGHTFULLY MISOGYNISTIC.
AS FOR RESTRICTED AREAS... 0-7 AS OF ONE O'CLOCK...
...H-4 AS OF THREE O'CLOCK...
.....
ALL OF THEM?
...FIVE O'CLOCK FOR F-9...
.....
WHO ...?
SHUUYA... I LEFT SHUUYA THERE...
.....
HOW ...?
YOUR CONCERN FOR HER...
YOU WEAR IT WELL.

NO!
YOU'RE THE OOO ONE OUT!
BOY SCOUT
ONLY GIRLS' NAMES
METS
I DESERVE TO LIVE!
ME! I DESERVE IT!
NOT JUST ME!
THERE ARE NO FAIR FIGHTS..
SHUUU
DIDN'T FIGURE YOU GENTS'D MIND MY MAKING IT A FAIR FIGHT!

HYAH!!
SOMEONE'S ALWAYS GOT AN EDGE...
!!
THERE IS MORE THAN STRENGTH AT PLAY HERE.
...WE LEARN AS WE DO, NO?
SO.
.....
THAT WAS... ENLIGHTENING. THANK YOU, MASTER.

I THOUGHT AS MUCH. YOU ARE PLACING TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON PHYSICAL STRENGTH... ON BECOMING STRONGER...
.....
NOT THAT THAT IS A BAD THING.
.....
THERE IS?
FEEL, SUSHIMURA.
FEEL ALL THERE IS TO BE FELT. EMBRACE EVERY CIRCUM-STANCE
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP
AS LONG AS IT IS NOT THE ONLY THING.
BE SENSITIVE AS WELL AS STRONG... BE AWARE
?.....
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
SMALL MATTER SOON ENOUGH, YOU WILL.

KNOW YOUR PRIORITIES, SUGIMURA.
STRENGTH WITHOUT SENSITIVITY IS AGGRESSION.
SHE'S... I KNOW HER...
FROM CLASS... KAYOKO, I THINK.
SHE'S...
TIC
TIC

LESS THAN AN HOUR... GUESS I SEARCH FAST.
.....
O-7'S FIRST RESTRICTED THAT MEANS I SEARCH IT FIRST
ONE HOUR... LESS THAN, ACTUALLY!
.....
BE SAFE...
.....
I'M COM-ING...
NOT LIKE TAKAKO!
PLEASE, GOD, NOT LIKE THAT!

?
I'M COMING!
MEW...
MEW...
.....
MEW...
MEW...
HUH!
OKAY... NOT HEARING THINGS.
MEW...
MEW

MM?
R-RROW...
AHH.. SUGIMURA?
SHH! SHUT UP, ALREADY!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
R-R-ROWW
MY STOMACH'S KINDA. GROWLING? Y'KNOW? BEING.
EMPTY 'N' ALL...
...I WAS KIND OF RUNNING LATE THIS MORNING, AND...
...I HAD TO SKIP BREAKFAST SO MY STOMACH... UH..
.. YEAH.
THAT IS... UM...
YES, SI--ER, NO, SIR!
I MEAN UM.

UNLESS THE NOISE IS MEANT TO DISORIENT THE COMPETITION? IF SO, WELL DONE, SUGIMURA. WELL DONE...
YEAH... UM... HEH...
I SEE
PERHAPS IF YOU WERE TO TELL YOUR STOMACH
...THAT LUNCH IS NOT ALL THAT FAR OFF? PERHAPS THEN IT COULD BE PERSUADED TO SHOW A BIT OF PATIENCE? HM?
AND YOU A MARTIAL ARTS TUTOR... MY, MY...
AREN'T THE MARTIAL ARTS ABOUT SELF CONTROL? I THINK THEY ARE.

WHAT ?
WHAT IS IT?!
MEW MEW
C'MON!
I CAN'T HELP IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT HURTS!
SIGH... NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED WHAT'S WRONG?!
A HINT? A CLUE? ANYTHING?!
MEW..
MEW
OAMN!
ARE YOU HUNGRY? IS THAT IT?
RREOW?

...

UH...
YEAH?
.....

OHH... SO YOUNG.
POOR LITTLE KITTY...

MEW...
MEW...

.....
SUGI-MURA, RIGHT?

.....
?!
SHOVE OVER. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO.
HRRRR.
HERE WE GO.... NICE AND GENTLE...
OKAY OKAY NOW.
I'VE GOT YOU.
SSHF
SSHF

THERE WE GO...! GOOD KITTY!
HRRRRR...
...WHY ARE YOU RUBBING... THERE?
UM...
THAT'S BETTER, ISN'T IT? GOOD KITTY GOOD LITTLE GIRL..
RIGHT UM. WHAT JUST HAPPENED, HERE?
JUST NOW ?
!!
.....
GOOD AS NEW, AREN'T WE? YES WE ARE!
NEW
...
AREN'T YOU A CUTIE? AREN'T YOU JUST THE CUTEST THING?

UM... SURE.
CUTE...
.....
I HAVE THREE KITTENS AT HOME. ISN'T SHE CUTE?
IT'S OKAY.
SHE NEEDS A BIT OF HELP. DON'T YOU? YES YOU DO!
SHE'S TOO YOUNG. SHE CAN'T MAKE PEE BY HERSELF.
HELP TO PEE?!
...TO PEE...?
HELP...
!!
HUH...
ME?!
THAT'S NOT... I DON'T THINK..
I GUESS THIS LITTLE SWEETIE'S MOTHER IS LONG GONE. YOU'LL DO FOR NOW.
.....
THE MOTHER USUALLY HELPS BY LICKING THEM.

OH WELL...
...SHE'S YOURS, NOW.
I FOUND IT.. HER! I FOUND HER THIS MORNING... I...
NO... THAT IS...
ROWR?
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BRING HER TO SCHOOL THIS YOUNG
WHERE YOU GO
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CONSIDER FOUR KITTENS?
BOOKS.
IN-VEST... RIGHT
THERE ARE BOOKS, YOU KNOW. TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT KITTENS 'N' STUFF. I'D INVEST.
I GOTTA SCOOT
I USED TO BE AFRAID OF YOU.
.....
.....
'S JUST... YOU WERE KINDA SCARY.
TO ME, I MEAN. I'M GLAD I WAS WRONG.
YOUR DOJO'S ONE FLOOR UP FROM MY FLOWER CLASS. ALL THAT YELLING AND THUMPING... AND WITH YOU SO BIG 'N' ALL...
ME?
WHY WOULD.. ME?!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUGIMURA. REALLY, REALLY GLAD.

YOU'RE NOT SCARY AT ALL. YOU'RE... NICE.
!! NICE

.....
...GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUGIMURA. REALLY, REALLY GLAD.

UM...
SUGIMURA...
.....

.....
KAYOKO! THANK GOD!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.. I...
NO...

GET AWAY FROM ME OR... I WILL! SEE IF I DON'T! I'LL DO IT!

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BATTLE ROYALE™

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

"Royale hits all the manga bases (martial arts, creepy old man, panty shots) without being Sailor Moon silly... A-"
– Marc Bernardin, *Entertainment Weekly*

So much unbridled enthusiasm, so many eliminated—the blood and lies are overwhelming the remaining few who scurry to survive the ongoing splatterfest that is *Battle Royale*.

When Sugimura and Kotohiki are reunited, hope leads to a momentary respite from *The Program*, but the noxious fumes of death and decay soon consume their hearts and souls. The monster that is Kiriyama is hot on the duo's trail, and he won't stop until they are dead...or he is. In this lethal battleground of madness and despair, the time for running is over, and Sugimura confronts the horrific moment that all who play the game must face...

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

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BATTLE ROYALE™ 11

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

PARENTAL ADVISORY

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY JEFFREY CARTER

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I-I WILL! I WILL DO IT!
I'LL SHOOT!
YOU... YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST! I WILL!
Chapter 81
HA-
NO... NOT TRUE...
I deserve to live!
YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT!

CHAPTER 81: Tidings of Happiness

YOU DON'T GET IT YET, DO YOU?
YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT, HERE!
NO.
NO CLOSER! NO CLOSER OR I SHOOT!
KAYOKO... PLEASE. LISTEN TO ME...

?
GO AWAY!
YOU WON'T
.....
GO AWAY OR I WILL KILL YOU!
I WILL!
YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST! GO AWAY OR I'LL... GO AWAY!!
SHE WOULDN'T..
SHE'S LYING
!

YOUR CALL.
MAKE IT.
!!
I NAMED HER FUGETSU.
SHE SLEEPS AT THE FOOT OF MY BED.
?
カラーン
カサッ

I TOOK THE NAME FROM YOUR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT IN CLASS
YOU CALLED YOUR ARRANGEMENT MOON WIND, SO I NAMED HER FUGETSU...TO HONOR YOU.
DO YOU REMEMBER? THE KITTEN?
KITTEN..
YOU HAVE THREE AT HOME, RIGHT?
NEWBORNS CAN'T, SO THE MOTHER HELPS BY LICKING THEM. YOU SUGGESTED I BUY A BOOK. I DID.

YOU'RE NOT SCARY AT ALL.
!!
YOU'RE... NICE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUGIMURA.
REALLY, REALLY GLAD.
GLAD...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUGIMURA.
.....
UH...

.....
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU. I'M NOT SCARY-- REMEMBER?
I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU. YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THAT... PLEASE.
PLEASE REMEMBER KAYOKO I'D NEVER NOT YOU
I...
?!

KAYO ...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! EVERYBODY'S DYING AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE! I CAN'T! SUGIMURA... I...
.....

I CAN'T! I CAN'T DO THIS! I CAN'T!
THUP-BO

I WASN'T GOING TO SHOOT... I WASN'T! SUGIMURA... PLEASE...
IT'S OKAY!
OKAY
.....

OMIGOD! ARE YOU HURT?!
SUGI-HURA?!
!!
NO. NOT HURT.
I... I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED...
.....
I'M JUST...SO RELIEVED... YOU'RE OKAY...

!!
UM...
. I WAS BEING FUNNY...?
OH...OH... I THOUGHT I'D NEVER LAUGH AGAIN... AND THEN YOU... YOU...!
MWA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
UH-HUH... SNK...
A RIOT!
BIG, STRONG SUGIMURA GOES WEAK IN THE KNEES?!
IF YOU'D SEEN YOURSELF! THANK YOU... THANK YOU, SUGIMURA!
THANKS FOR MAKING ME LAUGH!
!!
UM...
SURE...I GUESS...
.....

KAYOKO, YOU NUMBSKULL! HE WAS SERIOUS!
DON'T YOU DARE LAUGH AT HIM AGAIN! STUPID! STUPID, STUPID!
?!
HM...?
.....
I..THAT IS..
!!
I'M SORRY, SUGIMURA. I CAN BE SO THICK SOMETIMES!
I WASN'T LAUGHING AT YOU! I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO BE FUNNY--HONEST!
YOU WERE SO BRAVE! YOU THROWING YOUR STUFF AWAY, AND ME HOLDING A GUN ON YOU, AND...AND...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS. IT'S JUST... I...

II
WE COOL?
'CAUSE YOU ARE A FUNNY GUY IN A GOOD WAY, Y'KNOW?
I'M SORRY IF I HURT YOUR FEELINGS.
NO...
YOU DIDN'T. I...
I MEAN, YOU DO ALL THAT MARTIAL ARTS STUFF...
I HEAR IT FROM CLASS... THE YELLING AND THE POUNDING... AND YOU'RE SO TALL AND STRONG AND SCARY LOOKING...
BUT THEN YOU'RE ALL, "WHAT DO I DO?" WITH THE KITTEN AND THE CARING AND...
...AND THIS TIME IT WAS ME.
NOW HERE YOU'RE ALL, "WHAT DO I DO?" AGAIN
AND THAT'S GOOD?
IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL OF THIS, YOU MADE ME LAUGH.
YOU MADE ME LAUGH.

YOU'LL STAY WITH ME, RIGHT? PLEASE SAY YOU WILL.
I THINK I CAN BE BRAVE IF YOU STAY WITH ME. I REALLY DO.
LISTEN TO YOU YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA, DO YOU? SO BIG AND STRONG, BUT STILL SO NAIVE... BUT IN A GOOD WAY, Y'KNOW?
AM I YOUR NEW KITTEN, SUGIMURA?
KAYOKO...
FOUND HER, SHU.
PROTECT [redacted] YOU KNOW YOU CAN.
FOUND YOU...
I'M STAYING.
HOME IN ON THE BIRD CALL...
I KNOW YOU CAN.
I KNOW...
I MEAN IT. I CAN BE BRAVE.
OKAY

I'M OKAY REALLY.
?
THERE'S HOPE
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW
.....
TWO FIRES... ONE COULD BE COINCIDENCE...
I BELIEVE HIM. WE HOOK UP WITH THEM, WE'RE OUT OF HERE. I KNOW IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...
..BUT THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. I THINK KAWADA'S GOT SOMETHING.
NOT WHAT I MEANT SHUUYA, NORIKO, AND-- THAT TRANSFER WITH THE SCAR? KAWADA?
WELL, THEY'RE TOGETHER. I'M WITH THEM. KAWADA-- HE KNOWS A WAY OFF THE ISLAND.
EITHER WAY, I STAY WITH YOU. YOU HAVE MY WORD ON THAT. SO... WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
.....

I...
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
C'MON. STAYING'S OUT OF THE QUESTION.
SMOKE'S BOUND TO ATTRACT UNWANTED ATTENTION, AS WELL.
!!
.....
THAT'LL DO IT
'KAY.

YEAH. BETTER MAKE TRACKS.
!!
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
!!
IT'S OKAY... I DON'T HAVE COOTIES.
YOU ARE SO SWEET!
.....
LET'S GO... AND LISTEN FOR BIRDS.
!!
LOOK AT YOU BLUSHING 'N' ALL!

SHUUYA.
I FOUND HER, SHU!
AND THIS TIME I'LL NEVER LET GO!
RIGHT WITH YOU, SHU!
YOU FIND HER...
FIND HER AND DO RIGHT BY HER.
WE'RE GONNA BEAT THIS, SUGI... JUST SEE IF WE DON'T!
WE'RE COMING... BET ON IT!

WE'RE GONNA BEAT THIS!

I'M GOOD
I CAN KEEP UP.
!!
LET ME KNOW IF YOU GET TIRED.
NOT LIKE TAKAKO... NOT THIS TIME!
.....
NOT EVER AGAIN!

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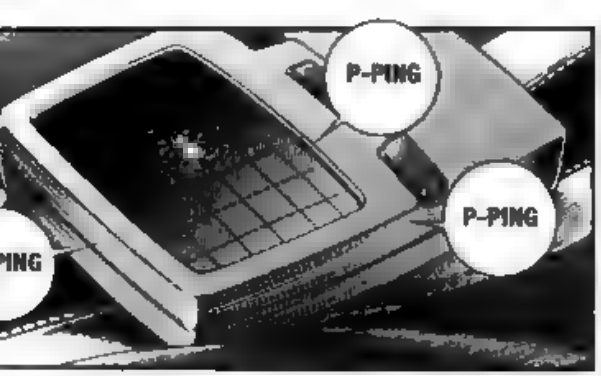
CHAPTER 82: Limits

BATTLE ROYALE

!
OH!
.....
!
!!
KAWADA! THERE! SMOKE! THE SIGNAL!
!!
SUGI!

IT'S SUGIMURA! TWO FIRES!
CHEE
CHK
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
HE FOUND HER!
WAY TO GO, SUGIMURA!


P-PING
P-PING
PING

THAT'S I'M SO SORRY

BET SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW...

TO FIND HER AFTER...
...LIKE THAT... OH...

FIFTEEN SECONDS... EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES! LISTEN FOR IT, SUGI!

YOU TWO WERE SO CLOSE... EVERYONE KNEW...
.....
YEAH...
WANT TO HEAR A SECRET?
YOU WERE... [redacted] TO ME...
EVERYTHING... PRECIOUS FRIEND...
WE... IT WAS TOO LATE...
THE THINGS WE SAID...WE SAID THEM TOO LATE...
WE KNEW AND...SHE DESERVED BETTER.

HM...
I THINK... I THINK SHE KNEW HOW LUCKY SHE WAS...TO HAVE YOU.
TAKA.
SHE WAS SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU
WHY DID YOU LEAVE HIM AGAIN? WHY DION'T YOU ALL JUST ESCAPE?
AND SHUUYA... YOU FOUND HIM, SUGIMURA...?
!!
THAT BOX THING. I GUESS YOU WERE MEANT TO FIND HER. THAT IS HOW YOU FOUND HER...RIGHT?
I GUESS YOU WERE MEANT TO HAVE IT
I...
WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?!
WHY?!
ドイツ...
I... UM ..
I HAD TO.
I...
I... I HAD TO FIND SOMEONE.
THERE WAS... UM...

WHY ARE YOU KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME?!
SUGI?
I DON'T
UH... IT WAS...
OH!
WHO?
HIS FRIEND WAS DEAD! JUST LIKE TAKA!
KAYO, YOU IDIOT!
I...I FOUND... UM...
IT'S...
IT'S OKAY...
HUH?
NO!
I AM SO SORRY! I CAN BE SUCH AN INCONSIDERATE DOOFUS!
I MEAN, YES! FORGIVE!
NO, NO... FOR-GIVE?
I'M SO VERY, VERY SORRY! PLEASE-- FORGIVE ME!
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH-- I'M BEING SUCH A BITCH!

I'M SUCH A JERK!
.....
KAYO?
.....
YOU REALLY ARE A NICE GUY, SUGIMURA.
'KAY.
YOU'RE... OKAY. REALLY. I...I...
NOT AT ALL...
NO ..
!!
WELL, SURE!
HUH?
?
YOU ARE?
I'M REALLY GLAD WE FOUND EACH OTHER.
I'M GLAD.
.....
.....
!!
YOU BET! BATMAN AND... Y'KNOW... THAT KID. THAT'S US!
NOW WE'RE, LIKE, A TEAM. WE CAN WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER, Y'KNOW?

YOU REMEMBER THAT PHYS ED TEACHER EVERYONE HATED?
?
HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHAT I AM IS REALLY GOOD AT HIDING MY WEAK-NESSES.
I'M NOT ALL THAT TOUGH, YOU KNOW
.....
ROBIN.
SEE WHAT THE "MASTER" HERE CAN TEACH US.
WHAT SAY WE LEAD OFF WITH MR. "BIG SHOT SHAOLIN MASTER" SUGIMURA, EH?
...TIME TO GET SERIOUS!
!!
OKAY, LADIES...
KENICHIRO SAKAGUCHI, OR SAKANAMA--- SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT MADE THE OLYMPIC JUDO TEAM... CALLED HIMSELF JAGUAR? GUY WAS A CLASS-A MORON.
TODAY, "MASTER" SUGIMURA. MOVE YOUR ASS!
.....
!!
FEED HIM HIS TEETH! YEAH!
FUCKER'S CALLING YOU OUT, MAN!
PLINK
UM... SURE

HE WAS LOOKING TO SCORE POINTS FOR HIS DISCIPLINE BY DUMPING ALL OVER MINE. CALLED IT AN EXHIBITION. LIKE THE OUTCOME OF ANY BOUT WITH A TEACHER'S IN DOUBT.
ANYTHING GOES. FEEL FREE TO PUNCH AND KICK... YOU KNOW THE DRILL.
HE KNEW HE KNEW OUR DISCI-PLINES WERE RADICALLY DIFFERENT
I'LL GO EASY ON YOU. WOULDN'T WANT YOU LOSING FACE IN FRONT'A THE WHOLE CLASS, NOW WOULD WE?
NOT QUITE
POUNDED SOME MANNERS INTO HIS THICK SKULL, RIGHT? RIGHT?!
BET YOU CLEANED HIS CLOCK BUT GOOD! WHAM! POW!
ALWAYS BLOWING THEIR OWN HORN!
I HATE GUYS LIKE THAT!
PROBABLY THOUGHT HE WAS GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN, TOO! ASSHOLE!
IN JUDO.. THERE ARE NO KICKS...NO PUNCHES...
WHICH MEANS HE COULDN'T HIT BACK.

...I DON'T...
...I DON'T FIGHT FROM EGO. I DON'T HIT PEOPLE WHO CAN'T HIT BACK.
I COULD HAVE TAKEN HIM DOWN EASY... BUT...
COME ON!
THERE WERE OPENINGS... A LOT OF OPENINGS.
SO...HE HAD HIS WAY WITH ME.
SKILL WITHOUT THE WILL TO USE IT?
TAP
TAP
TAP OUT, "MASTER"! I'M GETTING BORED
WHAT'S THIS, A SOLO ACT?!
!!
PRETTY MUCH USELESS.

SUGI? SUGI!
NOW ABOUT, "DO NOT FUCK WITH JAGUAR?" WORK FOR YOU?
I CAN WAIT.
AND WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TODAY, "MASTER"? HMM?
HAK!
HAK!
HE MADE IT HURT.
I THINK HE WANTED A FIGHT
LIM. NO.
AND YOU?
?!
EVEN IF YOU'D HIT HIM.. HE'S A TEACHER! ASSHOLE KNEW IT WAS A NO WIN!
LIKE YOU HAVE TO WASTE YOUR SKILLS ON THAT KIND OF GARBAGE! NO WAY!
YEAH SOUNDS LIKE HIM, ALL RIGHT COMPLETE ASSHOLE!
YOU MEAN, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE, YOU JUST LET WHOEVER POUND ON YOU?
.....
HOW'S THAT?
I JUST WON'T FIGHT BACK...
.....
HUH? HELL NO!
IF I DO FIGHT, IT'S GOT TO BE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN IT.
I NEVER WANT A FIGHT. NOT A REAL FIGHT I MEAN, DOJO SPARRING. THAT'S JUST SKILL.

?
HUH...YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN SHUUYA. HE TOTALLY LOST IT.
.....IT DOES TO ME
BUT... THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
NOW'S HE GONNA FIGHT A TEACHER?! HOW'S THAT A FAIR FIGHT?!
C'MON! TRY ME ON FOR SIZE, "BIG MAN"!
BIG MAN PUTS THE SQUEEZE ON A TAP OUT! WANNA TRY PUTTING ONE ON ME?!
SHU...HE UNDER-STANDS... PICK YOUR FIGHTS.
SNKT...
OH, YEAH! THAT'S SHUUYA ALL OVER!
NWA HA HA HA HA HA!!
GOT BOUNCED FROM CLASS FOR HIS TROUBLE.
BITE ME, TEACH!
LOOKING TO FAIL? IS THAT IT, SMART MOUTH?! GIMME A REASON! C'MON!
HE PUT ON QUITE A SHOW...

THAT'S WHY WHEN HE SAYS THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS.
YEAH. I KNOW.
IT'S LIKE A "GOOD GUY" VIBE.
YEAH. HE'S GOT THAT...
SHU'S GOT PRETTY SET VIEWS WHEN IT COMES TO RIGHT AND WRONG.
SHU'S GOT THIS... HE'S...
GLG
GLK
...AND NORIKO. HUH... NORIKO GETS ALONG WITH JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY.
TALK ABOUT YOUR ODD PAIRING. KAWADA, SHU...
...BUT SHU VOUCHES FOR HIM, AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW THIS KAWADA GUY FROM A HOLE IN THE WALL...
.....
SORRY... I TEND TO RAMBLE. GUESS YOU'VE NOTICED?
LISTEN TO ME GOING ON AND ON
HUH?
SURE YOU ARE!
YOU WERE TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT TOUGH. BUT... I THINK YOU'RE A LOT TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK.

BEING HERE WITH A TOUGH GUY LIKE YOU...
THAT'S WAY TOUGH! SO, HOW LUCKY AM I, HUH?
THE WAY YOU STAND BY YOUR FRIENDS 'N' ALL... AND THE WAY YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING, EVEN IF IT WINDS UP HURTING YOU...

THEY DON'T COME MUCH BETTER THAN YOU, SUGIMURA!
GUESS I'M JUST ABOUT THE LUCKIEST GIRL ON THE ISLAND!

UH...
UM...

ゴクッ..
.....

AH...

MMM?
SO... JAGUAR... HE..
RIGHT.. RIGHT!

.....

DRIP

CALLING YOU AN ASSHOLE WOULD BE REDUNDANT
!!
NOTHING TO MARK THE OCCASION? S'MATTER? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
YOU
MIMURA. HEAR TELL YOU'VE GOT A SMART-ASS COMMENT FOR EVERYTHING
MIM. . HAD HIS WAYS
NOT THAT THE BIG JERK DIDN'T DESERVE IT...BUT STILL..
WOW!
I MEAN WOW!
HE REALLY SAID THAT?!
.....
SIR! NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! HA!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! LESSON LEARNED, SIR!
NO MORE...
JASHAN WAS ALL OVER HIM. MIM DIDN'T EVEN TRY.
NOT EVERYONE CAN PULL OFF THAT LOOK.
OH...AND PROPS FOR THE FASHION STATEMENT.
YEP... MIM SURE HAD HIS WAYS...
LOOK ...?

I MEAN, BAD ENOUGH THE JAGUAR SPOTS...
...BUT A THONG?
LIKE I SAID, A TOUGH ONE TO PULL OFF.
!!
AAAAGH!!!
YOU'RE TOO KIND...

GOT THAT RIGHT.
MIM'S THE MAN.
ALWAYS A STEP AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE. ALWAYS PLAYING AN ANGLE.
HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND. THE ABSOLUTE BEST.
THAT IS TOO RICH! HA! JAGUAR SPOTS!
HEH.
COUNT ON MIMURA TO PULL THAT ONE OFF! I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN THE LOOK ON JAGUAR'S FACE!
YOU WERE SO RIGHT! MIMURA'S DEFINITELY GOT HIS WAYS!
.....
MIMURA, SHUUYA, NORIKO.
FUNNY HOW IT TAKES SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO MAKE YOU REALIZE...
.....
REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT GOOD FRIENDS ARE...HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO HAVE THEM IN YOUR LIFE.
I...I HEARD HIS NAME ANNOUNCED.
MIMURA... I HEARD...
ALL OF MY FRIENDS ARE GONE... EVERY LAST ONE.
.....
!!

I'VE SEEN... THINGS.
THEY'RE GONE.
IT'S REAL.
IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THEY'RE GONE...THAT THIS ISN'T ALL JUST SOME...ELABORATE PRACTICAL JOKE...
I'D KEEP HEARING THEIR NAMES, Y'KNOW? ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
SOUMA...
NO
HOW SICK IS THAT?
THERE'RE KIDS OUT THERE PLAYING TO WIN...ONE'S EVEN GETTING OFF ON IT.
MITSUKO... SHE'S STILL OUT THERE.
?

STONE COLD CRAZY, IF YOU ASK ME.
AND SHE'S NOT THE WORST. FAR FROM IT. KIRIYAMA...
...SSH

IT'S LIKE HE'S BEEN WAITING...

I'VE SEEN WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF. EVER WONDER WHY JAGUAR RESIGNED?
WAITING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO DEFINE HIM.

!!
TALK ABOUT YOUR BAD CHOICES...

GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE OFF THE KID GLOVES POUND HOME SOME REAL LESSONS.
THAT THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE, EH?
PUNKS...
HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER MIM'S STUNT...

YO! BOOKWORM BOY! KIRIYAMA, RIGHT?
OVER HERE...! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT!
CHUNK
!!
INTRODUCTION TO JUDO
?
JUDO
RELAX. IT'S NOT BRAIN SURGERY.
I. . AH...
BOSS ?

IT WAS RIDICULOUS! KIRIYAMA KNEW JUDO LIKE I KNEW NUCLEAR PHYSICS!
WELL? GONNA MAKE ME WAIT ALL DAY?
LET'S GET IT ON!
HUH!
IT WAS...
AND YET... THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT MADE ME BELIEVE...
MADE ME BELIEVE HE'D TAKEN WHAT HE NEEDED FROM THAT BOOK...
THAT SOMEHOW, HE WAS GOING TO MAKE IT WORK!

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Chapter83

CHAPTER 83: The Devil's Tactics

FUCKING OLYMPICS DON'T COUNT FOR SQUAT!
YEAH!!
BITE MY ASS!
DAMN! WASN'T JAGUAR ON THE OLYMPIC TEAM?
!!
HEH! HEH!
MAYBE THEM JAGUAR PANTIES'RE BUNCHED UP TOO TIGHT!
HAW!
.....
HUH!

GUESS YOU'RE FEELING PRETTY GOOD RIGHT ABOUT NOW, EH?
SWEET MOVE, BOOKWORM. YEAH...
SURE YOU ARE. GUESS I PLAYED YOU TOO SOFT...MY MISTAKE.
LET'S SEE WHAT KINDA MOVES YOU REALLY GOT.
BEEN A WHILE SINCE I COULD REALLY CUT LOOSE.
ZIFF
HA!
COMING AT YOU, BOOK-WORM!

ヒロト…!
HUH!
LIKE IT, PUNK?!
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!

TWO POINTS SHORT OF BRONZE, PUNK! TAKE THAT HOME TO MAMA!
DA-AMN!
HOLY... BOSS!
ONE LUCKY MOVE DON'T WIN THE FIGHT, BOOKWORM!
HA! NOT SO COCKY NOW!

.....
HE MADE KIRIYAMA BLEED?
AHHOO..

MAYBE NOT
MAY-BE.
MAYBE KIRIYAMA SHOULD'VE HIT HIM WITH THE BOOK.
I THINK HE MIGHT EVEN BE A GENIUS... YEAH...
KIRIYAMA... HE'S... DIFFERENT. DON'T ASK ME HOW. IT'S JUST... HE IS.
I DON'T THINK HE FEELS.
HOW'S A GUY LIKE THAT WIND UP SCARING A GUY LIKE YOU?! SHOULDN'T IT BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND?
...BUT HE'S, LIKE, SO QUIET...HE'S ALWAYS READING OR DAY-DREAMING...
WELL, SURE, HE'S SMART 'N' ALL...
...I JUST DON'T THINK HE CAN. HE ACTS. PERIOD. THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME THE MOST. A MAN WITH NO REGRETS IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING.
IT'S NOT THAT HE DOESN'T CARE...
IT'S LIKE HE'S TOTALLY DISCON-NECTED FROM ANYTHING THAT'S NOT HIM.
LEAST NOT THE SAME WAY WE DO. EVER SEEN HIM HAPPY? SAD? ANGRY? ANYTHING?

MY CONCERN LIMITS ME. HE KNOWS NO LIMITS.
I CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS. HE DOESN'T CARE AT ALL.
GOO! YOU ARE SO THICK!
BOY SCOUT...
...DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN.
YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT, HERE!
LOOK-- THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE IS...I'M NOT SOME SUPERMAN.
I WASN'T TRYING TO SCARE YOU, OR. .UM...
SORRY. I DON'T MEAN TO ..
HE'S THAT BAD?
YOU REALLY ARE A NICE GUY
SEE ?
I KNOW MY LIMITATIONS.
BUT I CAN STILL PROTECT YOU, KAYOKO... LIMITATIONS AND ALL.
I WON'T LET ANYONE HURT YOU. PROMISE.

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO TELL....
DO NICE GUYS KEEP SECRETS?
TELL HALF-TRUTHS?
.....
YOU MUST HAVE HEARD. IT WAS THE TALK OF THE SCHOOL....
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...WHAT KIRIYAMA DID...
WORSE STILL... IT'S ALL TRUE... EVERY SINGLE WORD...
BOSS ?

ROUND TWO, BOOK-WORM.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE GREW A BACKBONE. I'M IMPRESSED.
WELL, WELL...
AIN'T GONNA BE NO ROUND THREE!

!!
HURK!
H-
HGH...

NNGH...
AAAAAAAGH!!
?
H-GH!
H-GH!

DAMMIT!
.....
MMoo
H-GH!
WHO'S IT THIS TIME?! WHO'RE YOU PICKING ON NOW?!
IT ALL EVENS OUT IN THE END, JAGUAR!
SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL PICK ON THE WRONG GUY!
GUY'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS GET WHAT'S COMING TO THEM!

I JUST HOPE I'M THERE TO SEE IT!

...PICK ON THE WRONG GUY...
GUYS LIKE YOU...
H-AAGH!
!!
..Ok?
HHK!
POPPED MY FUCKING EYE!!
MY FUCKING EYE!!
MY EYE! SHIT! WHAT DID YOU...?!

PLEASE MY EYE
WHAT ARE YOU --?!
NO! DON'T --!!
PLEASE!!
SILK
WHAT ARE YOU--?! DON'T! HELP ME! SOMEONE HELP ME!!
SWEET
!!
HRA-LGH-HH!!
GLK

じゅっ
ぐちゅ
ぐちゅ
ぐちゅ
!
CLEAR...
……
NYAAR!!
HUH?
CLEAR?
AAAH!!
AH!!
AH!!
HUH...
HUH...

BOSS BE HARD?
YEAH
.....
.....
DE-TACHED...
HOW DO YOU FIGHT SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
TOTALLY DETACHED FROM IT...
WOULD ANYONE CARE TO SHARE IN THE EXPERIENCE?
SUGIMURA? HELLO? EARTH TO SUGIMURA?
!!
KIRYAMA... HE'S OUT THERE HUNTING... HUNTING AND NOT CARING WHY...
CAN YOU FIGHT SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

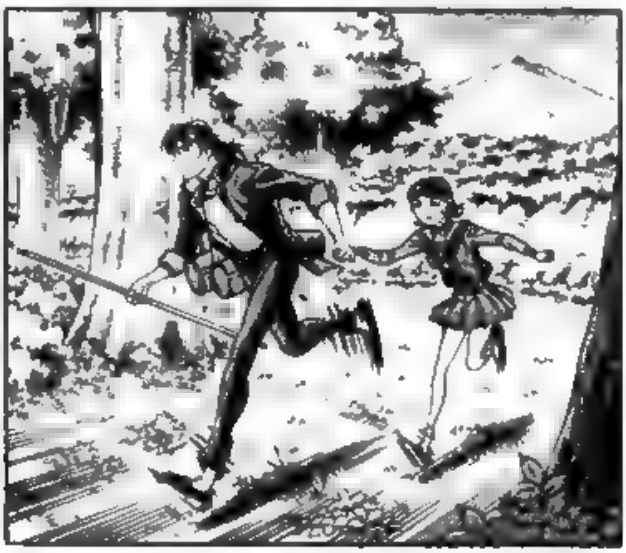
NOT BLOOD. MURKY, BUT NOT BLOOD. ALMOST LIKE EGG WHITE.

SPACED OUT FOR A BIT THERE.
HUH? OH... SORRY.
.....
C'MON. WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON.
SOONER WE HOOK UP WITH SHUUYA, SOONER WE'RE GONE.
AND BETTER SOONER THAN LATER, RIGHT? SO...YOU COMING?
!!

SOONER, BETTER THAN LATER... RIGHT!

WELL, UHH!
YOU HAVE TO ASK?

.....
I CAN...



I WILL PROTECT HER! NOT LIKE TAKAKO!
I CAN PROTECT HER...
AND IF IT COMES TO IT...I CAN KILL FOR HER! I MUST!
I WILL!
KIRIYAMA... MITSUKO... I WILL NOT LET YOU HAVE HER!
NOT LIKE TAKAKO!

I FOUND HER... I FOUND HER AND NO ONE WILL TAKE HER AWAY!
.....
FOR HER, I WILL KILL WITHOUT THOUGHT GIVEN TO CONSE-QUENCE!
FOR HER, I WILL DO IT!

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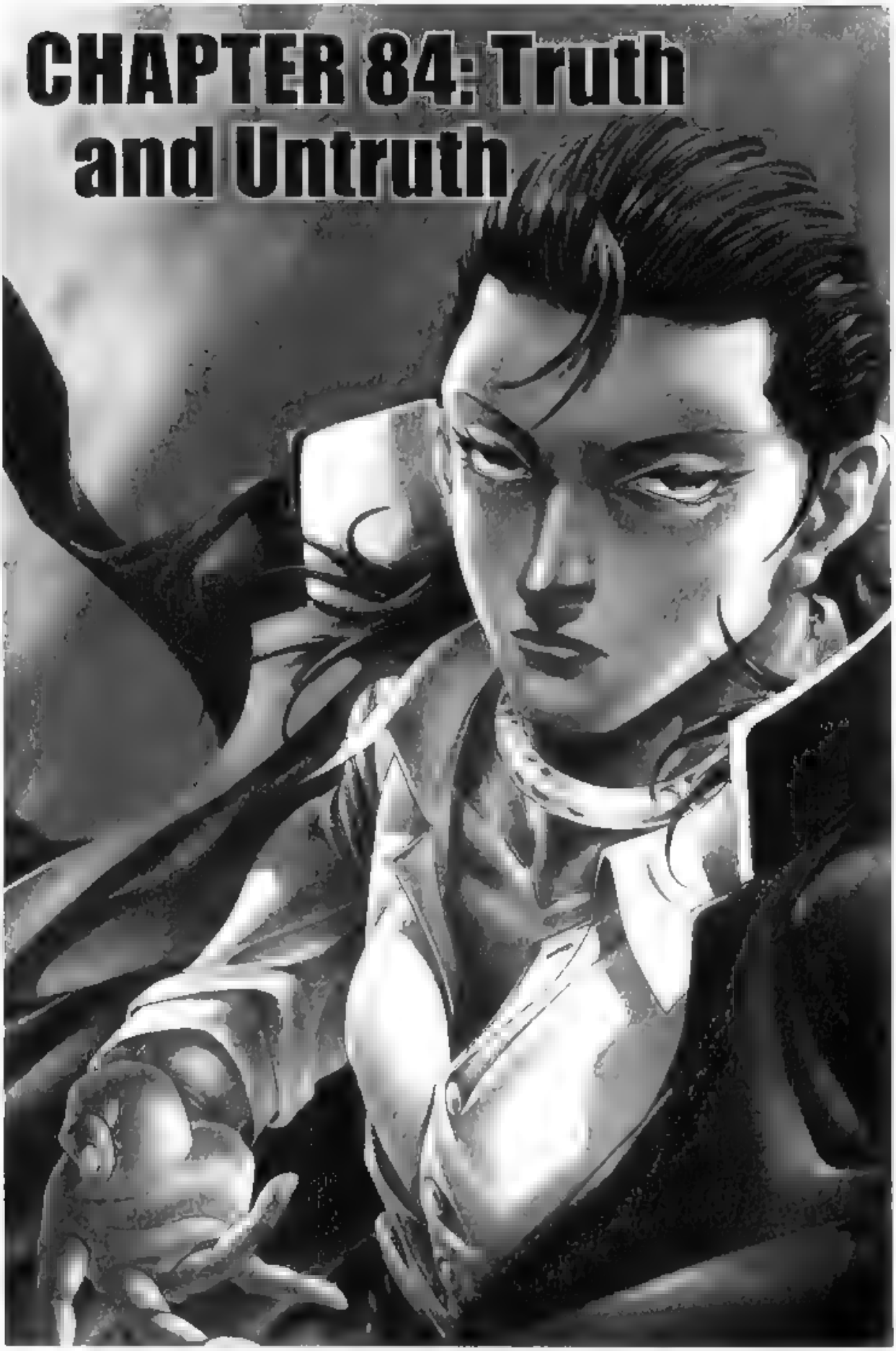
CHAPTER 84: Truth and Untruth



BATTLE ROYALE

ガルア アイ
……
ヒュッ
EASY. THEY'RE SLIPPERY.

EEEK!
I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
S OKAY

STEADY STEADY...
!!
YOU ARE SO SWEET!
SO SOFT

SUGIMURA? CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
.....
I'M REALLY SERIOUS OKAY?
WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL OF THIS FOR ME? I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD HELP IN A FIGHT OR... WHATEVER.
!!
WHY ?
IT'S... UM. . IT'S LIKE YOU SAID ABOUT NOT WANTING TO KILL ANYONE WELL, OKAY...MAYBE YOU DIDN'T SAY IT IN THOSE WORDS. .DID YOU? UM... SO...I...THAT IS .
HOW DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE?
FOR ALL YOU KNOW, I COULD BE, LIKE, WAITING FOR YOU TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, THEN.. THEN .
SMILE
MOUTH

NOT THAT I WOULD! ALL THAT TALK ABOUT KILLING 'N' ALL. .I WAS REALLY, REALLY, SCARED, Y'KNOW?
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT FOR SURE?
I KNOW.
.....
YOU COULD HAVE SHOT ME BACK THERE. YOU DIDN'T. I KNOW FOR SURE.
SUGI-MURA...
...THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME...
!!
NO...
I DON'T...
IT'S YOU... I...
I...

HAI!
YOU'RE THE MOST REAL PERSON I KNOW.
SLASH
NO
!!

HNGH!
!!

I ACCEPT
ミラ
I YIELD WITH GRATITUDE
YIELD...
TELL ME...
WHY IS TODAY SO DIFFERENT?
SO...
THAT WAS... ENLIGHTENING. THANK YOU, MASTER.
BUT TODAY THERE WAS NO RELUCTANCE - MOST UNLIKE YOU. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WISH TO SHARE?
AS IF YOU FEAR YOU WILL COME TO LIKE IT... PERHAPS EVEN NEED IT.
THERE IS ALWAYS, WITH YOU, A RELUCTANCE.
HUH?

KIRI-YAMA...
.....
NOT TODAY?
ニコ
.....
!!
AH!
MURKY, BUT NOT BLOOD.
HE DOESN'T FEEL.
HE ACTS WITH NO THOUGHT FOR CONSE-QUENCE.
THAT MAKES HIM STRONG. NO-- STRONGER. IF I'M TO BECOME STRONGER..
ALMOST LIKE EGG WHITE.

MURKY, BUT NOT BLOOD.
HOW WOULD YOU BE STRONGER?
.....
.....

I...
MY RELUCTANCE BINDS ME. I HESITATE EVEN WHEN I KNOW I MUST ACT.
KIRIYAMA KNOWS NO LIMITATIONS. HE IS WITHOUT CONSCIENCE-- AND THAT MUCH STRONGER FOR IT.
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO BECOME STRONGER WITHOUT BECOMING LIKE HIM. THERE MUST!
.....
AND SO YOU TRY TO PUSH PAST YOUR... "LIMITATIONS."
YOU SEEK STRENGTH BY WAY OF FORFEITURE. HMM...
IS STRENGTH SO IMPORTANT? DOES IT MEAN SO MUCH TO YOU THAT YOU WOULD BETRAY WHO YOU ARE?
AND THEN WHAT?
?!
I...
TELL ME, SUGIMURA...
WHO IS STRONGER THAN HE WHO KNOWS HIMSELF? HOW CAN THERE BE STRENGTH WITHOUT SELF-AWARENESS?
.....
THERE CANNOT.

FIND WHAT MAKES YOU REAL AND YOU WILL FIND STRENGTH.
SELF-AWARENESS MAKES US REAL.

SHE...
THE LIGHT CARESSES HER...

I WAS JUST... UM...
I...
HM HM...
!!
YES. SHE IS VERY REAL, NO? VERY PRETTY, TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?
BOTH EXPRESS THE REALITY WITHIN. BOTH EXPOSE THE HIDDEN TRUTHS.
SEPARATE PATHS TO THE SAME DESTINATION. YOU SEE?
MARTIAL ARTS.. FLOWER ARRANGING.
?
AND SEE WHAT?
OPEN YOUR EYES.
DO YOU THINK THE BEAUTY ENDS WITH THE FLOWERS?
BUT HOW ..?
BOTH?

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL... NO?
.....
SUNLIGHT BECOMES HER, YES IT DOES.
THE FLOWERS REPRESENT THE BEAUTY OF THE ONE DOING THE ARRANGING. THE INNER BEAUTY.
IN FORM AND MOVEMENT, CAN WE NOT SEE THE TRUTH WITHIN?
ONCE MASTERED, WHAT DO THE MARTIAL ARTS DISCIPLINES TELL US ABOUT THE ADEPT?
YOU WONDER HOW THINGS SUCH AS THIS CAN HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MARTIAL ARTS?
MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR INNER SELF.
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO EMULATE HER.
?!
HOW SHE EXPOSES MORE AND MORE OF HERSELF...
SEE HOW SHE MAKES MINUTE ADJUST-MENTS. .
HAA HAA
?
THAT'S...
I NEVER..

YOU MUST BE WORTHY OF YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CAN EVER BE WORTHY OF ANOTHER.
ACCEPT WHO YOU ARE AND DRAW STRENGTH FROM THAT TRUTH!
DRAW STRENGTH FROM THAT TRUTH.
ACCEPT WHO YOU ARE.

HM
HM
YES.
A VERY PRETTY YOUNG GIRL. I THINK SHE WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU.
?!
MY AGE?
SHE LOOKS TO BE ABOUT YOUR AGE. GIVE OR TAKE...
D-DO IT?!
NO, NO.
I DON'T... I'M NOT... IT'S NOT.
I SECOND THE MOTION, SUGIMURA. STOP DITHERING AND DO IT.
AH...AND I SUPPOSE YOU STAND HERE DAY AFTER DAY TO TAKE IN THE SUN?
HOW IS IT YOUR COLORFUL FRIEND TAKAKO PUTS IT? "STOP DITHERING AND DO IT!"
FOR ME?!
ME?
GOOD?

STRENGTH FROM THE TRUTH WITHIN...
TRUTH WITHIN...
HM HM ... ...
HOW VERY SAD IF TRUE.
I JUST... SHE.. WHEN I.. AH...
UM...
NO DITHERING, THEN... THEN... I DO IT!
I'LL BE WORTHY OF YOU ONE DAY SOON...

WHEN YOU FINALLY GONNA TAKE THE PLUNGE, MAN? EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU, IT'S BEEN THE SAME OLD SAME OLD.
UNLESS BY "DO IT" YOU MEANT A SOLO ACT, IN WHICH CASE THE LESS SAID ABOUT IT, THE BETTER.
FALL FOR GIRL, MOON OVER GIRL, MOPE AROUND WHEN ANOTHER GUY ASKS GIRL OUT AND-- SURPRISE!-- GIRL ACCEPTS.
TSK
TSK
HEY!
I DON'T
GETTING THEM TO "DO IT" WON'T COME EASY.
NEWS FLASH, ROMEO.
II
BATTLE VIXENS II? RING ANY BELLS? WE ALL AGREED TO CATCH IT TODAY?
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWN HERE TODAY ..?
UH
MIM? JIM
WOW. YOU REALLY GOT IT BAD THIS TIME.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HER NAME?
IF YOU SAY SO.
BEEN A HECTIC DAY...
THE MOVIE. RIGHT...
R-RIGHT.
HUH!
THOUGHT NOT.
UH-HUH.
DROP IT.
MM.
DON'T YOU DARE! YOU HEAR ME?!
MM!
RELAX. FAR BE IT FROM ME TO INTERFERE IN YOUR LONGING FROM AFAR. OH, AND FOR THE RECORD. .
...HER NAME'S KAYOKO-- WITH A "K".
I AM NEVER GONNA UNDERSTAND YOU. YOU HANG WITH A GRADE-A BABE LIKE TAKARO, BUT FALL FOR--
THAT'S WHAT MIM SAID? FALL FOR?!
FALL FOR?!

SUGIMURA? C'MON... YOU KNOW WHAT A KIDDER MIMURA IS...WAS!
GUYS LIKE YOU...YOU DON'T... WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?!
THAT'S... YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I...
NO HE WASN'T
HE WAS, LIKE, KIDDING AROUND, RIGHT?!
I...
IT'S...
YOUR BEAUTY COMES FROM WITHIN. FROM THE REAL YOU.
I'M JUST A LITTLE TROLL COMPARED TO TAKAKO! THAT WAS MIM JUST BEING A JERK!
I MEAN... YOU HUNG OUT WITH TAKAKO.
THIS ISN'T FUNNY, OKAY?
IT'S
YOU WERE
THE SUN-LIGHT
YOU WERE
BEAUTY? ME?! FROM WITHIN...?
REAL...?

UH...
YEAH. SURE SO..
WE'D BETTER MOVE ON.
A-HEH... HEH...YOU ARE SO FUNNY! THE REAL ME... SNRK..
BEAUTY FROM WITHIN...
MWA HA HA HA HA!!
OH... HAD ME GOING FOR A WHILE, THERE...

SIGH
JUST LET ME CATCH MY BREATH.
WAIT
WAH!

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CHAPTER 85: Proposal

WHAT'S INSIDE
YOU MEANT, LIKE, KI .. RIGHT? INNER ESSENCE EXTERNALIZED.
OUR FLOWER ARRANGING TEACHER, SHE WAS REALLY INTO THAT KINDA STUFF
REALLY.....
THAT'S, UM...
!!
LOOK RIGHT HERE
SHE SHOWED US THIS..
HERE--- LOOK.....
NOT THAT THERE'S ALL THAT MUCH TO SEE...OMIGOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT!
I DIDN'T MEAN LOOK AT MY...
NO, NO, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
?
WE SHOULD MOVE ON.
I CAN'T...
THAT'S NOT
!!
.....

JUST IN FRONT.. SURE THING
O-OKAY
SURE
!!
FOCUS RIGHT OVER HERE.
LIKE HERE
I MEANT FOCUS ON A SPOT JUST IN FRONT OF ME
I'M WATCHING..
WHAT AM I WATCHING?
I'M.
YEAH.
RIGHT HERE. YOU WATCH-ING?
HERE OKAY?
?!
WHAT...?
TRY NOT TO BLINK AND REALLY, REALLY FOCUS...! THIS IS SO COOL!
WAIT FOR IT YOU'VE GOT TO REALLY CONCENTRATE, OKAY?

SEE IT? IT'S LIKE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION OR SOMETHING.
IF YOU STARE HARD ENOUGH, YOUR EYES KIND OF BLUR. MAKES IT LOOK LIKE SOMETHING'S THERE.
TEACHER'D SAY IT WAS A KI SIGNATURE-- LIKE IN DRAGONBALL Z.
!!
KUH...
BUT...
..THAT'S JUST ANIME STUFF
?
OF COURSE IT IS!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST AN OPTICAL ILLUSION-TYPE THINGY.
PRETTY COOL, HUH?

WE'D ALL GOOF AROUND WHENEVER TEACHER WASN'T AROUND. WE'D PRETEND THE KI BALLS WERE REAL...
...AND THAT WE COULD MAKE THEM GROW AND TWIST AND ALL.
?
.....
WE WERE JUST BEING SILLY, Y'KNOW?
BUT... HOW COOL WOULD IT BE?
I MEAN, IF YOU COULD REALLY DO STUFF LIKE THAT?

IT'S JUST PLAYING!
IT'S LIKE AN EXERCISE, RIGHT? TO FEEL WHAT'S WITHIN.
PULLING STRENGTH FROM WITHIN.
I...
VERY COOL.
!!
IT'S LIKE, TA-DAH!
THE ONE AND ONLY TOUSHI KI MASTER, KAYOKO KOTOHIKI!
!!
HOLD?
THEN WE'D ALL HAVE TO HOLD THE POSE LONG'S WE COULD
SILLY, HUH?

SURE! WHOEVER HOLDS LONGEST WINS! WE'D ALL, LIKE, PRETEND WE WERE SENDING OUT, LIKE, KI RAYS!
I WAS REALLY GOOD AT THIS PART. I'VE GOT REALLY GOOD BALANCE. SEE?
SHOOTING OUT ENERGY TO UNBALANCE THE OTHERS AND KNOCK THEM DOWN
IT'S ALL WILL-POWER, Y'KNOW?
SEE?
I WON A LOT.
THAT'S 'CAUSE I COULD DISCONNECT, Y'KNOW? GO ALONG WITH THE MAKE-BELIEVE
STOP DITHERING AND DO IT.
GLK!

SEE THAT ?
WE'VE GOT SOMETHING IN COMMON. WE'VE BOTH GOT WILL-POWER.
SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES I'D MAKE IT HARDER ON MYSELF
MARTIAL ARTS IS ALL ABOUT... WILL-POWER.
YEAH...
A VERY PRETTY YOUNG GIRL. I THINK SHE WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU.
SHE LOOKS TO BE ABOUT YOUR AGE. GIVE OR TAKE...
!!
REALLY SEE
HOW HIGH I COULD LIFT MY LEG WITHOUT FALLING.
SHF
SHF
TEST MYSELF BY BRINGING MY LEG WAY UP LIKE A BALLERINA, Y'KNOW? REALLY STRETCH..
!!
?!
RIGHT! OKAY! LEG UP! I GET IT!
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE ON!

KAYO
PLEASE!
NO MORE LOOKING!
!!
OMIGOD! SUGIMURA! LOOK! OVER THERE!
IT'S A KITTY! LOOK!
MEW
RIGHT A KITTY...
!!
KITTY.
SO CUTE! C'MERE, KITTY... C'MON.
PSS
PSS

KITTY?
!
WHA'D I DO?
!!
I DIDN'T
DO YOU THINK I SCARED IT?
YOU?
NO. NOT AT ALL.
?!

I KNOW I CAN COME ON KINDA STRONG... Y'KNOW, BRASH 'N' ALL?
NO.
YOU'RE JUST SO CONFIDENT. SO...REAL.
THAT'S..
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL. I MEAN...
IT'S LIKE YOU...GLOW. FROM WITHIN. I'VE SEEN IT. I...
スゥゥ
NO.
UM...
KAYOKO? I I DION'T MEAN TO... KAYOKO?
スゥゥゥゥ
I'M NOT SPECIAL. I'M JUST. THE FLOWER ARRANGING?
MY MOM MADE ME TAKE IT. EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID...

SHE SAYS IT ATTRACTS THE RIGHT KINDS OF BOYS. THAT NICE BOYS LIKE GIRLS WHO DO THAT KINDA STUFF
SHE'S ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME LIKE THAT. ABOUT BOYS 'N' ALL.
MY MOM KNOWS ALL ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT. BOYS AND MEN AND...WHAT THEY WANT.
HOLY..
YOUR MOM'S THAT OPEN WITH YOU? THAT IS SO GREAT!
YEAH. .....
SHE'S
SHE'S THE BEST
MY DAD... MY MOM'S HIS MISTRESS.
SHE... SHE DOESN'T WANT THAT FOR ME.
HUH...

HE SET MY MOM UP PRETTY. HER OWN BAR... CLUB... WHATEVER.
MY DAD'S A HIGH MUCK AT SOME BANK OR OTHER. MONEY TO BURN, Y'KNOW?
NOWHERE NEAR OFTEN ENOUGH, BUT...ME 'N' MOM...WE GET BY.
HE STOPS BY WHENEVER HE CAN.
GUESS YOU DON'T TALK TO GIRLS MUCH, OR YOU'D HAVE KNOWN, TOO...
IT'S NO BIG SECRET MOST OF THE GIRLS IN SCHOOL KNOW. NO ONE MAKES A BIG DEAL OF IT.
UH-HUH...
.....

I TRY TO HELP OUT.
IF MY MOM'S SICK OR LIKE THAT, I'LL GO DOWN AND HELP WITH SNACKS, WAIT TABLES... BASICALLY WHATEVER NEEDS DOING.
I'M LIKE THE MASCOT. EVERYONE THERE'S SO NICE.
SOMETIMES I EVEN GET TO SEE MY DAD. THAT'S PRETTY COOL.

THERE'S SOME GUYS THERE WHO, LIKE, RUB YOUR BUTT AND... OTHER STUFF.
BUT IT'S JUST TOUCHING, Y'KNOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WANT TO DO IT OR NOTHING.

I GUESS THAT'S WHY I NEVER QUITE FIT IN WITH THE OTHER GIRLS.
NORIKO AND HER GROUP, YUKIE... *DEFINITELY* NOT MITSUKO! NEVER *THAT* BUNCH!
WEIRD LIFE, HUH? EVEN STILL, I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. I JUST WISH MY MOM WOULDN'T FRET ABOUT ME SO MUCH.

AL-THOUGH ...
...SHE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE FLOWER ARRANGING ATTRACTING NICE BOYS. DID YOU REALLY WATCH ME THAT MUCH?
SEE THAT? THERE I GO AGAIN.
WAY TOO BLUNT... BUT I DON'T CARE. IT'S WHO I AM. AND YOU ALREADY SAID YOU LIKE WHO I AM...
I LIKE WHO YOU ARE TOO, SUGIMURA. YOU MAKE ME LAUGH AND...
KAYO... I...
OMIGOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT TO YOU!
.....

I'M GLAD YOU FOUND ME AND THAT YOU LIKE ME, AND...
NO... I'M GLAD I DID.
.....
...AND THAT MY MOM WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE FLOWER ARRANGING.
AND THE NICE BOYS. ESPECIALLY THAT. ESPECIALLY YOU.
TP
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY... I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
I'LL TRY TO KEEP UP... HONEST.
.....
I...

WE...
UM... OKAY, THEN...
WE SHOULD MOVE OUT!
IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY IN ONE PLACE TOO LONG!
WE CAN'T JUST... DAMN!
WAIT...!
.....
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, SUGIMURA! WE'LL FIND YOUR FRIENDS!
.....
WE'LL FIND THEM AND BEAT THIS GAME! SEE IF WE DON'T!
!!
.....
KAYOKO!

DAMMIT!
.....
WAIT!
MUST EVERY GIRL YOU FALL FOR BE A MENTAL PATIENT?!
I MEAN, HONESTLY!
C'MON!
SHE'S SCARED AND I... I...
SHE'S NOT CRAZY!

ALL MY TALK OF KIRIYAMA AND JAGUAR.. I JUST MADE IT WORSE!
SHE'S RUNNING SCARED AND LOOKING TO.. WHAT? IMPRESS ME? IS SHE AFRAID I'LL ABANDON HER?
SHE KNOWS I LIKE HER! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I LET THAT SLIP! SO WHY IS SHE... DOES SHE THINK SHE HAS TO?
KAYOKO, NO!
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ME!
TELL HER, YOU MORON!
YELL IT IF YOU HAVE TO! BUT TELL HER!
NOW!
NO MORE DITHERING...
.....
DO IT!!

KAYOKO! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS! NOT FOR ME!
SHE KNOWS I LIKE HER, BUT IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT...TELL HER, DAMN YOU!
!!

.....
I...

I...
YOU... YOU'RE...
!!
NO.
NO? BUT I HAVEN'T
?

NO... DEAR GOD, NO...

AND JUST LIKE THAT...
...IT ALL GOES WRONG.
I DITHERED AWAY OUR TIME TOGETHER... AND NOW SHE MAY NEVER KNOW...

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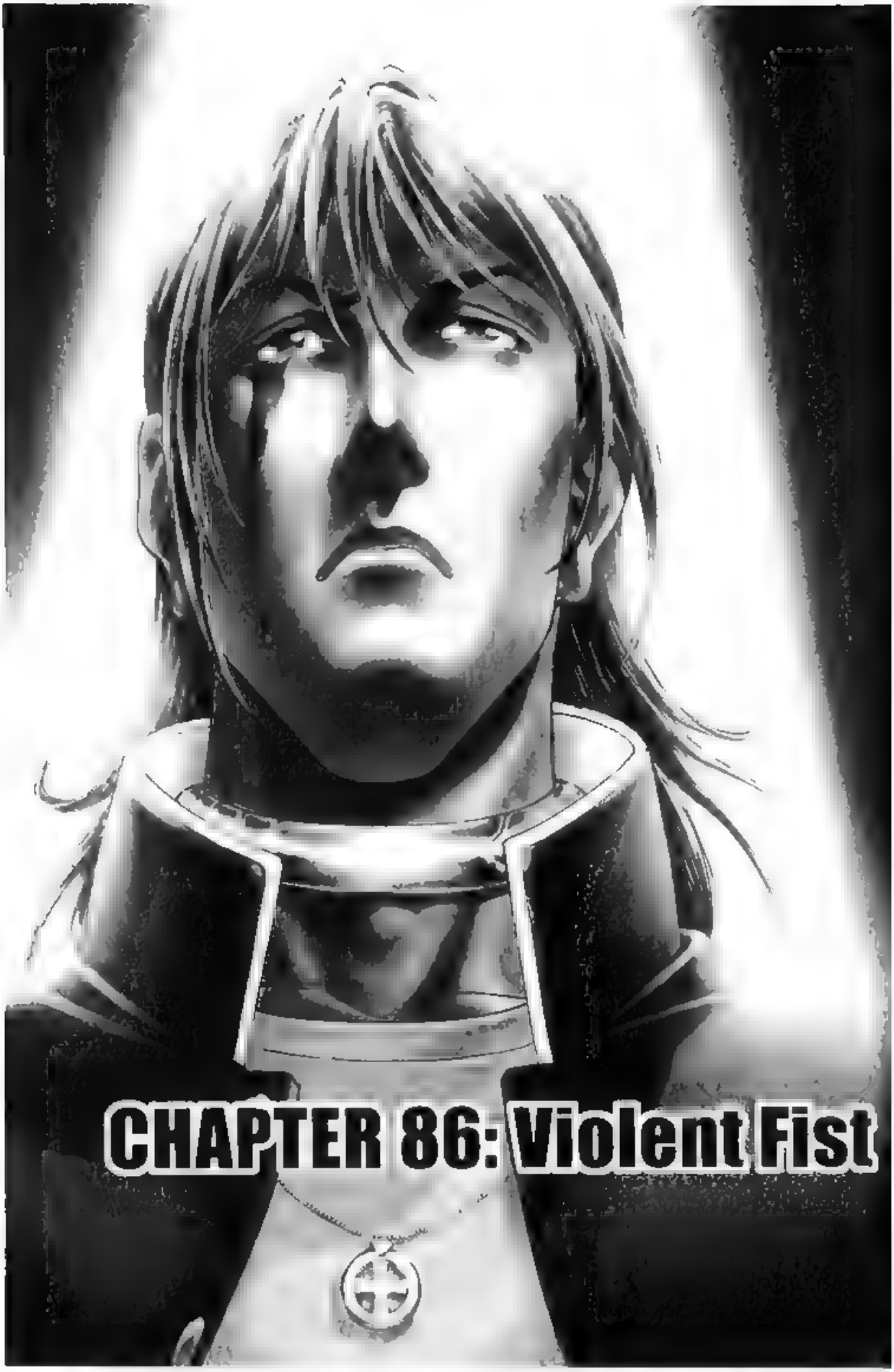
CHAPTER 86: Violent Fist

BATTLE ROYALE

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RRR
RAH
!!
!!

H-
KAH!

カキ!!
ドク
ドク
Нуаанн!!

HUH?!

HNGH-
NGH!
HOW
DID
HE...?
HE...
NO!
FOCUS!
HE
CAN'T...

BUT I FELT IT!
AS IF HE WERE... PROJECTING FROM WITHIN... USING KI...

DAMMIT, SUGIMURA! FOCUS! HE'S GOOD, BUT SO AM I!!
NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S...

THAT'S HIS EDGE. HE DOESN'T CARE.
HE'S MERCI-LESS..
ポタ...
.....
DAMMIT! HE'S NOT SUPER-NATURAL! KI BELONGS IN ANIME
HE DOESN'T KNOW CONSEQUENCE! HE'S A KILLER AND DOESN'T CARE...
THAT IS HIS STRENGTH..
I...
I CAN'T

MY RELUCTANCE BINDS ME. I HESITATE EVEN WHEN I KNOW I MUST ACT. KIRIYAMA KNOWS NO LIMITATIONS. HE IS WITHOUT CONSCIENCE--AND THAT MUCH STRONGER FOR IT
ドクン
HUH!

SSS...
YOU ARE SO THICK!
..DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN.
YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT, HERE!
STOP DITHERING AND DO IT!
SUCH A BOY SCOUT...
THERE ARE NO FAIR FIGHTS...
.....
STEPPED IN IT, SHU...
I FOUND HER..
FIRST KAYOKO, THEN BACK TO US. DON'T MAKE US COME AFTER YOU.
WE'RE GONNA BEAT THIS, SUGI. JUST SEE IF WE DON'T. YOU BE THERE FOR IT.
HE FOUND US...

I CAN...
!!
!!
.....
...DO RIGHT BY HER!

FIND HER AND DO RIGHT BY HER!
HUH!

I WILL PROTECT HER!
SUGIMURA! SUGIMURA, NO!!
HE'S PURE IMPULSE ...!!
.....
ALL TECHNIQUE, NO PASSION...!!

I CAN EXPLOIT THAT! I KNOW I CAN!
HGH!
I KNOW THESE FORMS, TOO! ANTICIPATE HIS MOVE!

PURE TECH-NIQUE...
.....
BY THE BOOKS! NO VARIATION!
ANTICIPATE THE MOVE! I CAN DO THIS!

?!
I CAN!
NO...
I CAN DO THIS FOR HER! KAYAKO!
OH PLEASE, NO...

I SEE IT!!
I SEE IT!! I SEE IT, YOU MURDERING BASTARD!!

I CAN DO THIS FOR HER!!

BATTLE ROYALE

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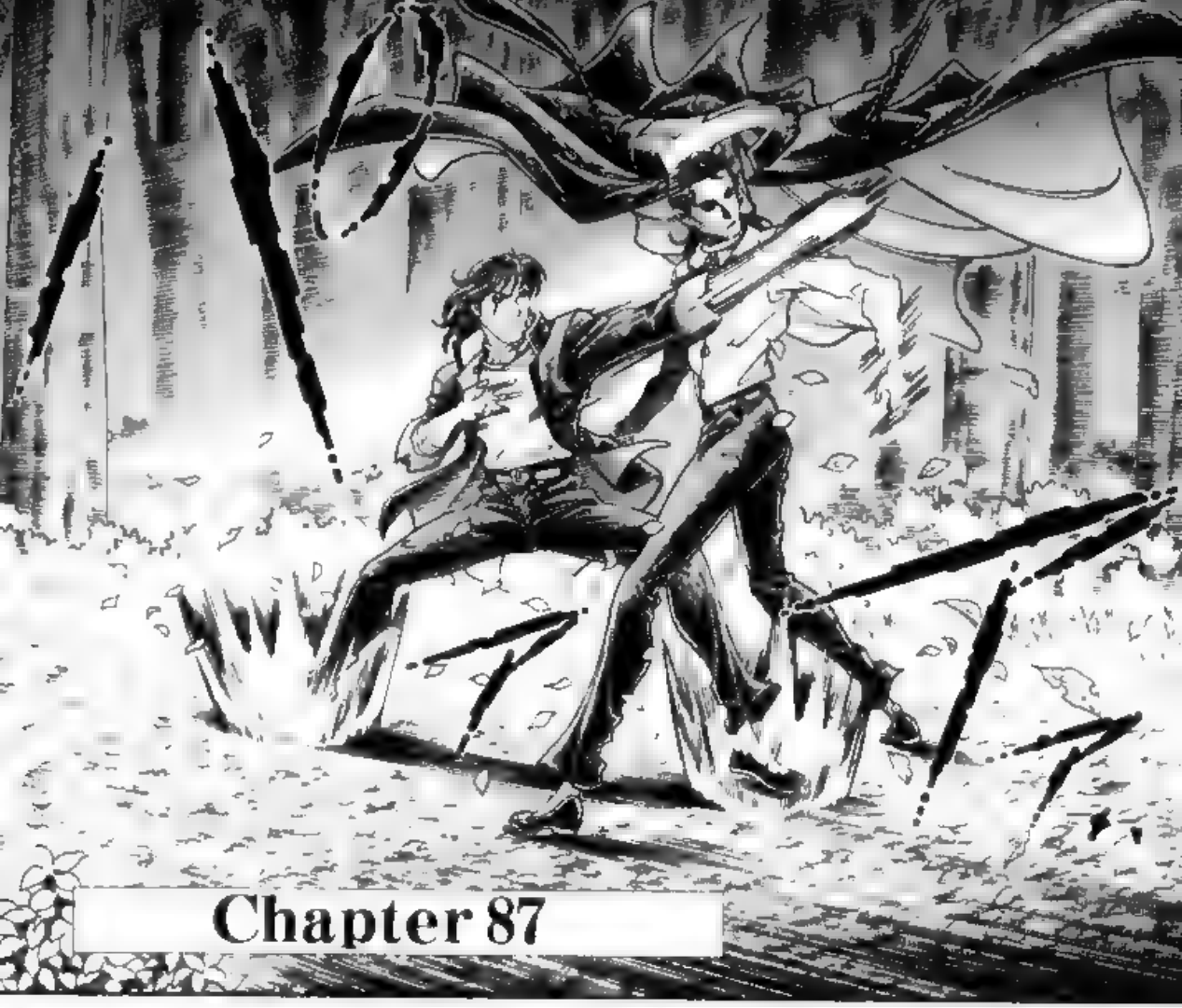
Chapter 87

I CAN'T...
I...

CHAPTER 87: Devil of Nothingness

FAST...
HE'S TOO FAST!

I'M BARELY CLIPPING HIM! IT'S LIKE HE KNOWS!

...CAN READ MY MIND!
LIKE HE...
HE'S ANTICI-PATING MY MOVES!

ANTI-
CIPATE
THIS,
KILLER!
HRRR
-AH!!
AH...

AH!
DAMMIT! TOO FAST!

ガアア…
HE DIDN'T
HE DIDN'T TOUCH ME!
?!
PAIN? BUT HE...
!!
NO...
HE DIDN'T...

I NEVER FELT...HE COULDN'T...

MY HAND!
HOW COULD HE..?
I DIDN'T
I NEVER FELT THE BLOW!
HOW ...?
NEVER SAW IT COMING
CRIPPLED ME!! FUCKER CRIPPLED ME AND I NEVER SAW IT COMING!!
!!

HOH!
!!
.....
OH GOD...

SUGI-
MURA!!
NO!!
WH-
HUH?

CHRIST ALMIGHTY!! MY EYE!!
MY EYE!!
SUGIMURA!!

GYAHHH!!
MY EYE!! BASTARD !!

H-
H...
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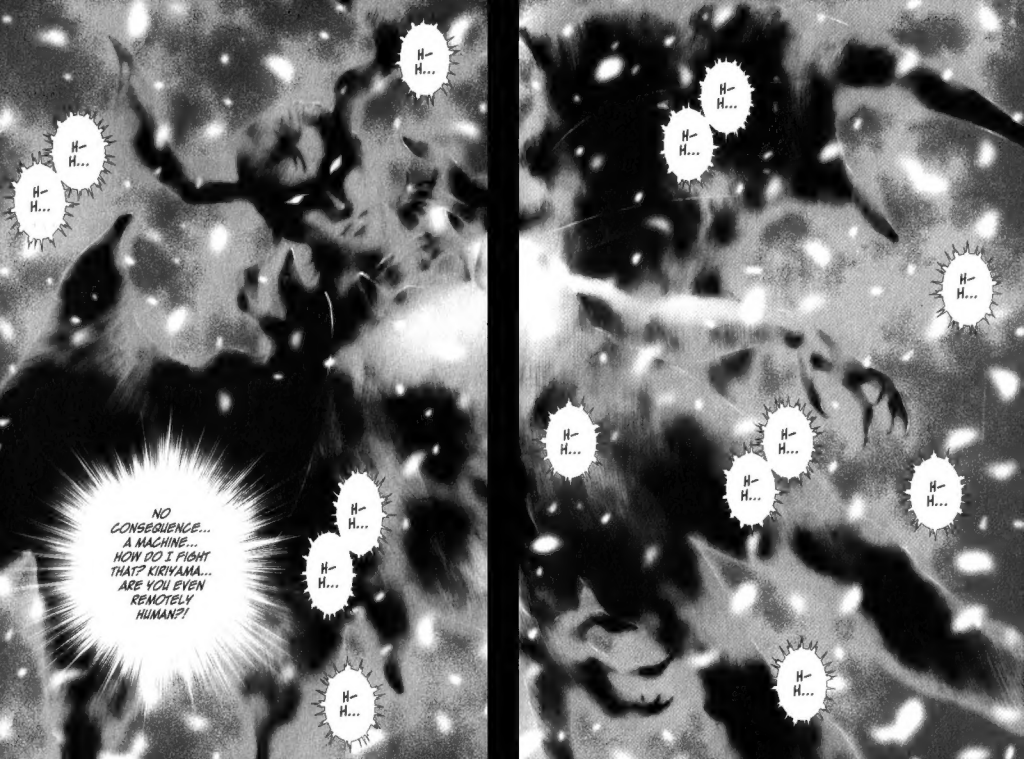
H...
He's

...BARELY HUMAN...
LIKE A MACHINE...
WIND HIM UP AND WATCH HIM KILL...HOW DO I FIGHT THAT?
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HIMSELF... EMPTY INSIDE...
I GAVE HIM EVERYTHING I'VE GOT... AND HE...
NO CONSEQUENCE... IT'S NOT JUST US HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT... HIMSELF...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...


H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
NO CONSEQUENCE... A MACHINE... HOW DO I FIGHT THAT? KIRIYAMA... ARE YOU EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN?!
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...

HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS?
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
H-H...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUMANITY, KIRIYAMA? WHEN DID YOU BECOME THIS... THING?
BLURRING OUT... CAN'T... KIRIYAMA...
WHAT...?
WHAT HAPPENED, KIRIYAMA? HOW DID YOU...
H-H...
SURVIVING CONTESTANTS: 7 and counting...

BATTLE ROYALE

SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster

Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa

8: Kayoko Kotohiki

1: Mizuho Inada

15: Shuuya Nanahara

8: Yoji Kuramoto

1: Yoshio Akamatsu

16: Yuka Nakagawa

9: Yuko Sakaki

2: Yukio Utsumi

16: Kazushi Niida

9: Hiroshi Kuronaga

2: Keita Iijima

17: Satomi Noda

10: Hirono Shimizu

3: Megumi Etou

17: Mitsuru Numai

10: Ryuhei Sasagawa

3: Tatsumichi Ooki

18: Fumiyo Fujiyoshi

11: Mitsuko Souma

4: Sakura Ogawai

18: Tadakatsu Hatagami

11: Hiroki Sugimura

4: Toshinori Oda

19: Chisato Matsui

12: Haruka Tanizawa

5: Izumi Kanai

19: Shinji Mimura

12: Yutaka Sato

5: Shogo Kawada

20: Kaori Minami

13: Takako Chigusa

6: Yukiko Kitano

20: Kyoichi Motobuchi

13: Yuichiro Takiguchi

6: Kazuo Kiriyama

21: Yoshimi Yahagi

14: Mayumi Tendo

7: Yumiko Kusaka

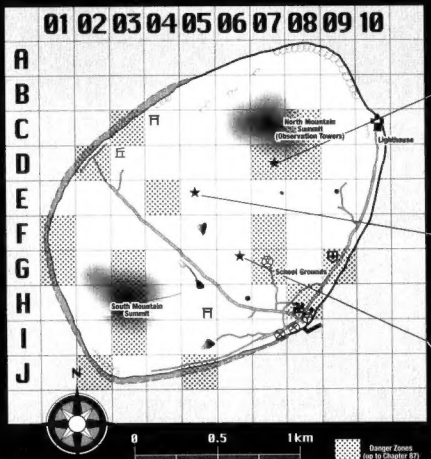
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto

14: Sho Tsukioka

7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu

THE PROGRAM: UPDATE

CHAPTERS 80-87



PROGRAM CONDITIONS:

All members of the class must kill each other until one survivor remains • All students are supplied with a ration of food, a map of the island, and a weapon • All students will wear an explosive bomb collar that also monitors life signs • Students are free to move about the island but must stay out of designated danger zones that will frequently change locations • If there is more than one survivor at the end of the game, the remaining bomb collars will be detonated.

CHAPTERS 80-81

Sugimura finally finds his beloved Kayoko.

CHAPTER 82

A signal from a friend.

CHAPTERS 85-87

The battle to the death begins.